



NAVY RESERVE
Ready Now. Anytime. Anywhere.

Ready Now!



Sailors can honor their families by ensuring that their military, financial, and legal records are up to date.

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Honoring Families

December 2011

Shipmates,

December is a month for reflecting on the year that was, looking forward to the year ahead, and for most of us, spending time with our families; they deserve our deepest gratitude for their love and support. As we look for ways to express our love and appreciation, remember that words without actions ring hollow. We honor our families with words AND actions. Here are some **actions** you can take to honor your family:

Verify your Dependency Data is up to date in NSIPS and that your family members are properly registered in DEERS. DEERS is the key to many valuable benefits – make sure your family is in the system!

SGLI life insurance is an affordable way to provide for your family's financial needs. Check your LES to make sure your premiums are being withdrawn and check your record to ensure your beneficiaries are current and correct. Changes to your Page 2 do NOT change your SGLI beneficiaries! Spouses and children are also eligible for SGLI coverage. You may also need more insurance than SGLI offers. Review your needs with a command financial advisor and plan for a solid financial future.

If you intend to transfer your Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to your spouse or children, this election MUST be made by you while you are in a paid SELRES billet – it cannot be made from the VTU, IRR or after you retire. It also cannot be made by your survivors after you die. If you intend to transfer this valuable benefit, do it today! You can change the percentage each beneficiary receives at a later date.

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is another way to prepare for the future, in addition to employer-provided 401k or other retirement plans. Make sure your beneficiaries are properly designated in these programs. If you've changed jobs, it's a good idea to consolidate your old 401k plans into a single IRA.

With so many services going paperless and issuing electronic statements, it's more important than ever to maintain a physical record of your banking and investment accounts, as well as a list of websites, login IDs and passwords. And as always, legal documents such as wills, powers of attorney, medical powers of attorney and living wills are vital planning tools for your family's future. Keep them in a secure place!

Our families are there for us year 'round, year after year. Take time to be with them this holiday season, tell them how much you love them, and honor your loved ones with your actions. Ensuring that your military, financial and legal records are up to date – and that your family knows it – is a real and meaningful act of service. Happy Holidays from our families to yours!

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